

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~computer-readable medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure~~ for communicating update metadata corresponding to a software update to a client computer, the method comprising:

providing a computer-readable medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure to a client computer, wherein the tag-based data structure includes tag-based elements storing metadata corresponding to a software update available for installation on the client computer, the tag-based data structure comprising:

[[an]] a tag-based identifier element that uniquely identifies [[a]] the software update; and

at least one additional element of the following tag-based elements:

a property element storing general properties relating to the software update including update handler information identifying an update handler for installing the identified software update on the client computer;

a localized property element for storing language specific information directed to a computer user relating to the software update;

a relationship element storing relationships the software update has to other software updates;

a rule element storing rules for determining the applicability of the software update to a client computer;

a file element identifying the identified software update's payload and information relating to the software update's payload; and

a handler element storing information for executing the update handler identified in the property elements for installing the identified software update on the client computer;

~~wherein the at least one additional element describing pertinent aspects of the identified software update is useful for determining the value and applicability of the identified software update such that communication resources may be preserved in not obtaining the identified software update if the identified software update is of no value or inapplicable for installation on a computing system.~~

2. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the tag-based data structure is an XML data structure.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one additional~~ tag-based elements in the tag-based data structure are ~~logically ordered~~ arranged in the tag-based data structure according to the above-described order.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 3, wherein the ~~identity~~ identifier element includes a unique identifier that uniquely identifies the software update, and a revision number associated with the software update.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 3, wherein the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies ~~a second~~ another software update that must be installed before the identified software update is installed.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 5, wherein the relationship element further includes information identifying a plurality of software updates joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation

of the logical statement determines the suitability of the identified software update for installation on [[a]] the client computer.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 3, wherein the relationship element includes bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of software updates are joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the bundled software updates for installation on [[a]] the client computer.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 3, wherein the relationship element includes supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 3, wherein the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies other software updates that must be installed before the identified software update is installed, bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively, and supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on [[a]] the client computer.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 1, wherein the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for replacing existing files on ~~[[a]]~~ the client computer.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 12, wherein the file element further includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer and replacing existing files on ~~[[a]]~~ the client computer.

14. (Currently amended) A ~~computer-readable-medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure~~ method for communicating update metadata corresponding to a software update to ~~an update service node of~~ a client computer, comprising:

providing a tag-based data structure to a client computer, wherein the tag-based data structure includes tag-based elements storing metadata corresponding to a software update available for installation on the client computer, the tag-based data structure comprising:

an identifier element that uniquely identifies ~~[[a]]~~ the software update; and

at least one additional element of the following elements:

a property element storing general properties relating the software update including update handler information identifying an update handler for installing the identified software update on the client computer;

a relationship element storing relationships the software update has to other software updates;

a file element identifying the identified software update's payload and information describing information relating to the software update's payload; and

a handler element storing information for executing the update handler identified in the property elements for installing the identified software update on the client computer;

~~wherein the at least one additional element describing pertinent aspects of the identified software update is useful for determining the value and applicability of the identified software update such that communication resources may be preserved in not obtaining the identified software update if the identified software update is of no value or inapplicable for installation on a computing system.~~

15. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 14, wherein the tag-based data structure is an XML data structure.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 14, wherein the ~~identity~~ identifier element includes a unique identifier that uniquely identifies the software update, and a revision number associated with the software update.

17. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 16, wherein the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies ~~a second~~ another software update that must be installed before the identified software update is installed.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 17, wherein the relationship element further includes information identifying a plurality of software updates joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the identified software update for installation on ~~[[a]]~~ the client computer.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 16, wherein the relationship element includes bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of software updates are joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the bundled software updates for installation on [[a]] the client computer.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 16, wherein the relationship element includes supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 16, wherein the relationship element includes prerequisite information that identifies other software updates that must be installed before the identified software update is installed, bundle information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively, and supersedence information that identifies at least one other software update that is superseded by the identified software update.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 16, wherein the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on [[a]] the client computer.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 16, wherein the file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for replacing existing files on [[a]] the client computer.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable-medium~~ method of Claim 24, wherein the file element further includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on [[a]] the client computer and replacing existing files on [[a]] the client computer.